



OHI News You Can Use

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CRAIG'S



CORNER

Name changes, new email groups, new mail codes—it's been a flurry of activity in VA Central Office. As you are aware, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) recently underwent a substantial reorganization of program offices. The realignment resulted in a number of changes for the Office of Health Information (OHI) and we've put together this special edition of the OHI newsletter

to give you an introduction to outcomes which resulted in changes to the structure of OHI, and the development of the new VHA Office of Informatics and Analytics (OIA).

Many of our colleagues were realigned to OIA, and Gail L. Graham was chosen to lead that new office as the acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Informatics and Analytics. OIA is charged with enhancing VHA's ability to collect, analyze, protect and deliver information which ultimately improves the health of Veterans. To accomplish this, OIA is structured around three main divisions comprised of programs focused on Health Information Governance, Health Informatics, and Analytics and Business Intelligence.

OHI remains committed to improving business practices and providing leadership in the areas of health IT portfolio management, service level agreements, service coordination, innovation, VA/DoD collaboration and interoperability projects. There is a renewed focus on strengthening our

relationships with our business partners and customers while continuing to improve services and capabilities available to those on the front lines. After all they rely on us to deliver quality, patient-centered care.

The realignment is one of the key elements in Dr. Petzel's plan to transform VHA into a 21st Century organization. Under the new structure, VHA is more agile and better equipped to respond to the ever changing health care industry and it creates new opportunities for collaboration and synergies within and external to the organization.

Although realignment activities have been a focal point, I am pleased to say that a number of key initiatives continued to advance as scheduled. There are several new initiatives that have launched or will be launching in the coming weeks that really signify the spirit of innovation and progress that is characteristic of VA. The 2011 VA Employee Innovation Competition engages our greatest asset, our employees, seeking their input on ways to transform the organization.

Thank you for your continued dedication to serving our nation's Veterans and making VA a world class organization. This is a new era for OHI and given our past successes, I anticipate great things in the future.

Your Resident Patient,

Craig



IN THIS ISSUE

Realignment

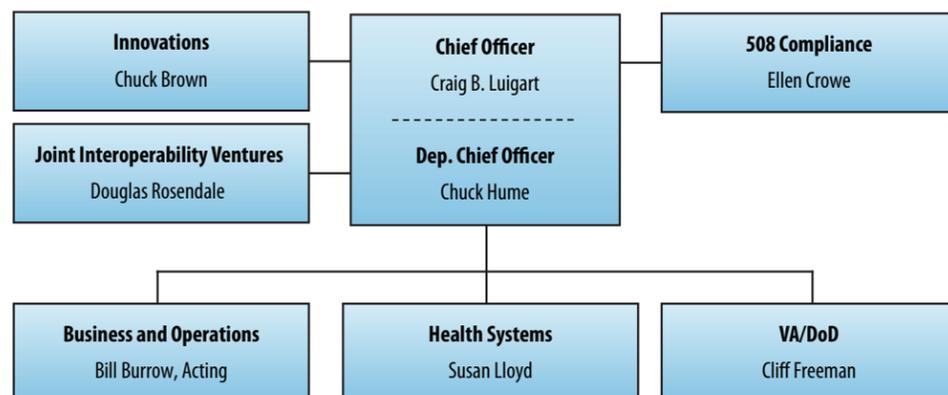
Tech Talk

Innovations

Craig's Rule: *"Let your good people be better than you and give all the credit for success to the team. You're just a cheerleader. When they give out the gold there will be plenty to go around."*

Office of Health Information (OHI)

Office of Health Information will remain the principal liaison to the Office of Information and Technology, ensuring that current and future IT projects meet the needs of the organization. OHI has six directorates:



- ▶ Health Systems Directorate, Susan Lloyd, Director. The Health Systems Directorate advances IT and innovative strategies by working with our customers to develop requirements for their future health information technology needs.
- ▶ Business and Operations Directorate, Bill Burrow, Acting Director. The Business and Operations Directorate provides important administrative support and services to the other OHI Directorates, allowing them to stay focused on accomplishing critical strategic goals. Support services include: budget and finance, contracting, communications, human resources and service coordination.
- ▶ Joint Interoperability Ventures (JIV) Directorate, Douglas Rosendale, Director. The JIV directorate focuses on enhancing shared services between VA and DoD and supporting facility integrations such as the Federal Health Care Center at North Chicago.
- ▶ VA/DoD Directorate, Cliff Freeman, Director. The VA/DoD Directorate provides programmatic, analytical, and administrative support to enable real-time, seamless sharing of critical health data between VA and DoD's Military Health System.
- ▶ Innovations Directorate, Chuck Brown, Director. The Innovation Office oversees and coordinates VHA's innovation efforts joining IT with advances, in health care operations. This program falls under the umbrella of VA's Innovation Initiative (VAi2), and is designed to tap the talent and expertise of individuals both inside and outside government to contribute new ideas.
- ▶ 508 Compliance Directorate, Ellen Crowe, Director. 508 Compliance provides education on creating accessible electronic materials and consultation on Section 508 compliance to eliminate barriers in IT and assure information and data are accessible for people with disabilities.



A Message from OHI's Chief Officer

Working in teams is programmed into VHA's culture and a strength of the organization. That strength permits team members to combine and build upon their talents to work toward accomplishing the mission. The new organization will continue to emphasize collaboration between OHI, OIA and OIT, with key stakeholders working in horizontal teams. The horizontal structure empowers our staff to be innovative and entrepreneurial, and contributes to the success of the organization.

Office of Informatics and Analytics (OIA)

Office of Informatics and Analytics (OIA) OIA is integral to VHA programs that provide patient-centered health care to Veterans. Providing advanced and secure enterprise data systems, sophisticated analytic and measurement solutions, decision support, business intelligence and web communications, OIA facilitates evidence-based decisions for individual Veterans and their families, patient populations, clinicians and those managing health care delivery systems. Customer-focused training and support along with transparent oversight and governance are part of the OIA organization, and ensure that enterprise tools are used most effectively to serve Veterans and VHA.

OIA includes executive program areas that address Informatics Patient Safety to promote an organizational culture of safe health care information technology and VeHU Education, which encompasses the planning and execution of VA's eHealth University conferences for VA health care providers, and offers numerous other opportunities and platforms for learning to use VA's electronic health record. OIA's Program Support manages the business functions for the offices that make up OIA providing guidance and support in such areas as planning and strategy, budget, human resources, contracting, and communications. OIA offers three main areas of alignment:

- ▶ Health Information Governance, Marcia Insley, Director. Health Information Governance (HIG) provides policy guidance, compliance monitoring, and subject matter expertise in information access, privacy, health care information security, data systems, health information management, data quality and library services.
- ▶ Health Informatics, Murielle Beene, Linda Fischetti, and Paul Nichol, Executive Team. Health Informatics serves as a professional home and collaboration of all informatics functions including the chief health informatics office, medical informatics and nursing informatics. It is the permanent home of health informatics initiatives, such as VA's Personal Health Record, My Health eVet, the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) Health Program, the Bar Code Resource Office and the Health Informatics Initiative Project (hi2). With a focus on transformation, Health Informatics serves as a focal point for the advancement of our electronic health record and information systems.
- ▶ Analytics and Business Intelligence, Dr. Stephan Fihn, Director. Analytics and Business Intelligence provides comprehensive analytic and business intelligence support and turns advanced analytic capabilities into an organizational resource with such programs as the VHA Support Service Center, Analytic Support, Web Solutions, Corporate Data Warehouse Governance, Clinical Assessment Reporting and Tracking, Quality Analytics and Performance Measurement and Operational Metrics.



Meet the new acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Informatics and Analytics

I am honored to introduce the team now collectively known as the Office of Informatics and Analytics (OIA). Within a short time, we have been able to establish an OIA foundation that supports VA's vision, mission and strategy to provide patient-centered care which is data-driven, team-based and continuously improving. OIA's offices together form an organization that optimizes the health care we provide Veterans, and does credit to VA's reputation as a leader in informatics and data management. Together we will continue building on existing relationships with our partners by providing timely, relevant informatics products and data resources that support improvements in Veterans' health. Many of you already have working relationships with the teams that make up OIA. For those who would like to learn more, I invite you to visit our OIA website: <http://vawww.vhaco.va.gov/oia/>. Please check back often as we enhance the site, adding resources and information about our work in Health Informatics, Analytics and Business Intelligence and Information Governance. I want to thank all of the individuals who make up OIA for their continued efforts and enthusiasm for improving service delivery to Veterans.

Are you ready for the storm?

Cloud computing is the latest IT buzz term. The concept has taken the information technology by storm, but exactly what is it? Well, imagine being able to access all of your data—emails, contacts, word documents, audio files, pictures—anywhere, anytime. Cloud computing just might make that a possibility.

The term cloud computing was inspired by the cloud symbol that is often used to represent the Internet in flowcharts and diagrams. Cloud computing is a general term for anything that involves delivering hosted services over the Internet. In simpler terms, information that was once available only via a desktop computer can now be stored in “the cloud” and accessed instantly from various devices—laptops, mobile phones, tablets—through a browser.

A cloud can be private or public. A public cloud sells services to anyone on the Internet (currently, Amazon Web Services is the largest public cloud provider). A private cloud is a proprietary network or a data center that supplies hosted services to a limited number of people. When a service provider uses public cloud resources to create their private cloud, the result is called a virtual private cloud. Private or public, the goal of cloud computing is to provide easy, on-demand access to computing resources and IT services.

For more details on cloud computing, go to <http://searchcloudcomputing.techtarget.com/definition/cloud-computing>.

Got a great idea?



For the third year in a row, the VHA Innovations Office asked VA employees for innovative ideas to transform Veterans’ health care. This year’s response was impressive. The 2011 VA Employee Innovation Competition website, which closed for new idea submissions on June 3, received over 4,500 ideas with over 14,000 unique users visiting the site. The competition challenged employees to think creatively about ways to transform the VA into an organization that is Veteran-centric, results-oriented and forward-looking. Employees’ votes will help select the best ideas. The top 100 ideas will be invited to submit a full proposal for review and selection for funding. On behalf of VHA Innovations Office, thank you for the great ideas!

MyVeHU Campus is Live!



MyVeHU Campus (MVC) is a web-based application that assists staff with electronic health record (EHR) training no matter their location. Launched April 26, MyVeHU Campus offers access to EHR training tools created from a collection of VA eHealth University conferences.

MyVeHU Campus is designed to provide the very best learning on VA’s award winning EHR through online training. All resources are at your fingertips, available for access from the comfort of your own office or from anywhere there’s an internet connection – from within or outside of VA’s firewall.

Phase I of MyVeHU Campus has a super, simple, smart search tool to expedite searching for specific EHR training

courses. Whether you are looking for a course on disease management or searching for specific health prevention topics, MyVeHU Campus is your one-stop, online solution. Once logged on, users can enter “disease” as a search criterion and get a return on all related courses. If you don’t know where to begin, the questions in “Interview Search” will guide you to narrow your search by Track, Topic, Keywords, Year, Title or other detail until you arrive at the selected course. MyVeHU Campus also offers bookmarking and favorite features to enhance the user’s learning experience.

For questions, contact Becky Monroe, Director of Training and Strategy, VHA Office of Informatics and Analytics, at Becky.Monroe@va.gov or via phone at (319) 430.0445. Take time today to log on and join the nearly 2,250 users from various countries already taking advantage of MyVeHU Campus.